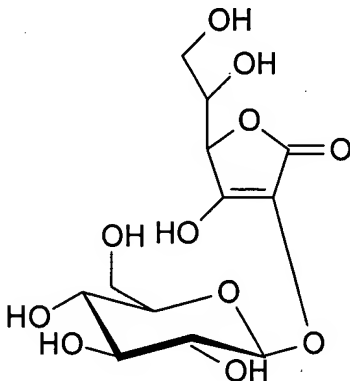


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) 2-O-(β -D-Glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the following formula (1):

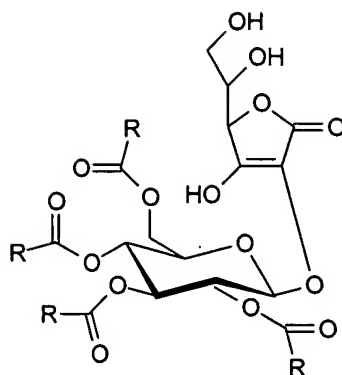


or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

2. (Canceled)

Claims 3-7. Canceled.

8. (Original) 2-O-(Tetra-O-acyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the following formula (2):



wherein each R in the formula independently represents a C₁₋₅ alkyl group.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 8, wherein all of the R groups of formula (2) are methyl ~~in formula (2) are acetyl groups.~~

Claim 10. Canceled.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of producing 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid comprising reacting ascorbic acid and β-D-glucosyl compound using a β-D-glucosyltransferase.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of producing 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid and 6-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid comprising reacting ascorbic acid and β-D-glucosyl compound using a β-D-glucosyltransferase.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the β-D-glucosyltransferase is a cellulase.

14. (Currently Amended) A provitamin C composition comprising 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid in the amount of 0.1 to 30 weight percent ~~produced by the method of claim 10,~~ and a pharmaceutically, cosmetically, or dietarily acceptable component.

15. (Currently Amended) A provitamin C composition comprising the 2-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid ~~produced by the method of claim 10~~ and 6-O-(β-D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid.

Claims 16-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical ~~or cosmetic~~ composition comprising the 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof of claim 1, wherein said 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof is present in the amount of 0.1 to 30 weight percent, and a pharmaceutically ~~or cosmetically~~ acceptable carrier.

Claims 22-25. Canceled.

26. (New) A cosmetic composition comprising the 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid or a biologically acceptable salt or ester thereof of claim 1, and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.